

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a purified polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

Claims 2-24 (Cancelled).

²
Claim ~~25~~ (Previously presented) A vaccine composition including the protein or the polypeptide according to claim ¹~~1~~.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

³
Claim ~~27~~ (Currently Amended) A method of active immunization comprising ~~including~~ the administration of a the protein according to claim 1 to a mammal.

Claims 28-29 (Cancelled).

⁴
Claim ~~30~~ (Previously presented) A fusion protein comprising the protein or the polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claims 31-32 (Cancelled)